

Barnwater Cats Rescue Organization

AUTUMN 2008 NEWSLETTER

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HURRICANE IKE DEPLOYMENT by Kris Field

As you know, Hurricane Ike struck viciously and did massive damage from Texas to Indiana. It was perhaps the largest hurricane to ever hit the United States, bigger in size than Texas. I was fortunate to be able to deploy September 11th to Dallas/Fort Worth with the American Red Cross. From that staging area, we drove to Texarkana, Arkansas, and arrived on September 12, a day before the hurricane hit there, followed by a small tornado and power outages in over 9,000 homes and businesses.

However, our work with the evacuees in faith-based shelters (churches, in this case) went on. I personally worked 7 pm until 7 am in three different shelters, helping evacuees from Port Arthur, Texas. These people fled on buses with nothing but the clothes on their back and whatever they could carry in their backpacks.

This was a life-changing experience; and even though I was amazed to look out of the ARC shelter door when the eye of the hurricane passed over us, I hope to never have that opportunity again. The tornado that followed was loud and rattled the roof and sounded like a freight train . . . but in the end, we were all safe.

And while I was glad to come back home to my own bed and my kitties who were so well-cared for in my absence, I shall never forget to appreciate the choices I have in life (to watch TV, to go to the grocery store if I want, to get food out of a refrigerator, to simply be able to wash or change into clean clothing). Please pray for these people, for these animals, for these businesses, schools, libraries . . . and please, if you can, volunteer your time or open your wallet. Without all of us working together, we cannot even begin to help these people to put their lives back together.

Remember also the national animal saviours: HSUS, Best Friends, Muttsack, Noah's Wish. And please, please remember the folks who provide shelter and housing and credit cards to victims of disaster every day of the year: the American Red Cross.



A BIG PROFUSE THANK YOU to Rhonda and Kelly Green

for their very generous cash donation to the shelter. It will help keep the doors open!



This newsletter is a periodic publication of Barnwater Cats Rescue Organization
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Another Barnwater Cat Adoption

Cajun is a red tabby who was brought in by some construction workers working on a building near Hampden Family Pet Clinic (Dr. Monica Watterud, one of our favorite shelter vets, is with this clinic). Dr. Poundstone, owner of the clinic, asked Barnwater Cats to take him in. He was about four months old when Kris began working with him to get him ready for adoption. He was in the shelter for eight months, since he was found in January 2008. A lady named Christine and her husband have given him his forever home. Here are excerpts from several of Christine's emails to Kris about Cajun's new life and a reply email from Kris:

Christine: Cajun spent most of last night hiding in our basement in a corner but around 4 am, began meowing loudly, and after some encouragement, came upstairs and hung out in our bedroom, rolling around on the bed, flopping on our legs, and then giving the scratching post a good workout.



He is still getting used to all the sounds that the wooden floors and stairs make, so he is still spending most of the time in the basement. We watched a movie this evening (in the basement) and he came in and out of the laundry room (where he feels safe for now), and spent lots of time on the couch with us, rolling around some more, playing with us, purring like a motorboat, and being generally adorable.

Cajun made huge progress this morning, venturing into the kitchen without any prompting, calling, encouraging, etc. while we ate breakfast, then proceeded to follow us around the house. It seems he has already mostly gotten acquainted with the sounds of the house and the sounds that we make in the house.

We both love him, and are constantly amused by his personality, motorboat purring, and willingness to let us "manhandle" him while he's rolling around on the floor (vigorously rubbing his tummy and head) and purring all the while. He seems to be eating up the attention, and we are having loads of fun with him. You did a wonderful job of getting him comfortable with people, and trusting them, as you said. We also appreciate that he's litter box trained (!) and so far (although it's only been 48 hours) he has only used his claws on the scratching post, not on any furniture, although he's tried to nibble on a couple house plants. I've told him 'no' and removed him and he seems ok with it. We are thrilled that he already seems comfortable throughout the entire house now, and comes when we call him.



Kris: Oh, Christine . . . I am so thrilled to hear from you. Even though I am but a link in the chain, mainly the middle one since all of these kitties that come to me

AMAZING GRACE by Konnie Olson, Manager of Contract Administration, Municipal Services Group, Inc.

Some of you have already heard the story of Amazing Grace, but for those who haven't, here's the condensed version and some pictures:

Two kind ladies, Melanie and Nicole, fed Mama kitty, a stray who gave birth to four kittens under a porch. Another neighbor trapped the Mama kitty and took her to Cat Care Society, and Melanie and Nicole continued to feed the babies. Last week the ladies discovered that a couple of the kittens had issues with their legs. One was missing a paw on one foot and another was missing a paw and most of the other leg. They started making calls to various rescue groups, none of whom could help, then got my name from the owners of Paws 'n' Play in Arvada. Though it's a bit outside of the Homeward Bound mission, how could we say no to helping these babies?? By some miracle, the kittens are not feral. Two are with the WONDERFUL people at Rocky Mountain Alley Cat Alliance, being socialized in a foster home and progressing very nicely, and the fourth (the one missing a paw) was wrangled by another neighbor who has found her a home. Gracie is at my house for now. The awesome staff of Cheshire Cat Hospital kept the 3 kittens overnight to give us time to figure out where they could go, and Dr. Jill came in on her day off to examine them when Melanie and Nicole were able to trap them. God blessed these kittens with a whole bunch of Guardian Angels. Hillary's "It Takes a Village" theory counts in animal rescue, too.

Only someone with absolutely impeccable, beyond reproach credentials should apply to be Gracie Spitfire's forever home, because it is going to darn-near kill me to give her up! I'm hauling her all over the place and having her meet lots of people and other pets, in the hopes that she can have such social skills that one day she may be able to be in a pet therapy program. Wouldn't she be perfect for visiting Children's Hospital, or a rehab facility like Craig, to show kids how well she's overcome her disability and giving them inspiration?



JUST WHEN YOU THINK IT'S SAFE TO ANSWER YOUR DOOR . . .

Saturday, October 11, Kris was sitting in her chair dozing after an all-day class at the Red Cross, all the lights were out, inside and outside. The doorbell rang, startling her. It was during the rain mixed with snowstorm, and there at the front gate stood a young lady named Sara holding a cat. Sara was frantic because she had no idea where to take her. Portia had shown up at her door, wet and cold and crying to come in, but Sara's boyfriend has allergies and Sara was unable to even bring her in temporarily. It's anyone's guess as to why Portia was out in a rainstorm, injured and frightened.

Kris took Portia in; but we do not recommend this manner for dropping off cats! As it stands, Portia is badly matted but purrs a lot. She needs a physical exam, leukemia/aids test, fecal, blood panel, microchip and possibly a dental. Even without the dental, the expenses will be a minimum of \$300. So the shelter is even in more need of donations than usual.



After partially shaving Portia so that she looks quite lopsided and lumpy (evidenced by this picture on the left), and several trips to the vet, Portia's list of woes is that she not only has rotten teeth (they must all be pulled), but there are several major pus-filled abscesses on her back. After opening them twice, they are still draining. Portia has a temperature of 103.5 even after being on antibiotics for three days and needs fluids via IV daily.

The fee to adopt a cat is \$250. That seems pretty high, doesn't it? But Portia will have cost the shelter around \$900: \$350 for medical care, about \$350 for dental work, \$50 for a microchip, \$25 for a fecal test, \$28 for antibiotics and \$75 for shaving, bath and grooming. And those prices are "shelter" prices.



Let's see now, that comes to over \$875, not counting the cost of food and litter and housing, which is immaterial next to the other costs. Most shelters would have put Portia to sleep without a second thought.



SUNNY SONNY



When Sonny was rescued, he weighed only 4 1/2 pounds. He had been abandoned in a house when the owners were evicted for non-payment of rent. Sonny was left in the house with 7 other cats with no food or water and was almost dead when Tea Shook and her partner Amy rescued him. He had diarrhea, upper respiratory illness, rotten teeth, ear mites and was, of course, literally starving.

Sonny just after arrival at Barnwater Cats' shelter



As you can see from these before pictures, Sonny was in bad shape. But he is now a healthy four-year-old after over a year under Kris's care. And now Sonny has a new foster home. Mandy, a Barnwater adoption, and our dog Pearl, along with my husband Davy, made for a neat little family. Sonny, however, had other ideas. He would come running whenever I came to the shelter and finally I could not resist taking a chance on upsetting the status quo at home and fostering him. He adapted rapidly into our master bedroom while Pearl and Mandy were kept out. After a few days and some hissing from

Mandy, Sonny was able to explore the house and he took full advantage. Pearl is completely neutral about a new cat under foot and could not have been better behaved if we had programmed her. Mandy is not so happy, but she is using her litter box and gradually spending more time out from under her chair, so I have hopes that she will at least find some level of acceptance in time.

Sonny plays and purrs and always comes when called. He is active at night but as soon as the lights go out, he settles down next to me. He uses his scratching post and acts like a real gentleman. It is obvious that Kris took a lot of care with him, getting him socialized and giving him good manners. A permanent adoption is pending upon final approval from all his fellow family members.



Look at him now!

KITTY CHRISTMAS

Special Item: We have the most spectacular children/adult's book called Two Bobbies, a wonderful *true* story about a dog and a cat and their journey from New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit to a happy home through Best Friends.

It is beautifully illustrated and quite a tear jerker,
but an amazing and beautifully written, beautifully illustrated book.

MARTIN LABORDE PRINTS STILL AVAILABLE

BARNWATER CATS RESCUE ORGANIZATION ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR

2008



Saturday
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Nov 29th

Dec 6th

Dec 13th

Sunday
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Nov 30th

Dec 7th

Dec 14th

Get your Christmas shopping finished early and help a great cause!! Barnwater Cats is hosting their annual holiday shopping event. New merchandise only.... shop our wonderful array of fine chocolates and imported cookies, jewelry, framed pictures, glassware, CD's, books, clothing, artwork and other collectibles!

All proceeds will benefit injured, abused and homeless kitties and help them find good health and loving homes . . .

Happy Holidays...we hope to see you soon.



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